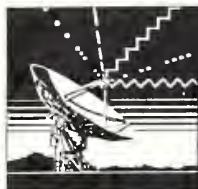


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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2726

August 11, 1995

TOUGHER RULES PROPOSED -- Under proposals from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it would be tougher for people refusing to work or meet other requirements of federal, state and local assistance programs to receive increased food stamp benefits. USDA Secretary Dan Glickman said proposed regulations "will end a system where we sanction people on one hand and increase their benefits on the other." President Clinton told the National Governor's Association about the proposal, saying he was expediting a change prohibiting an increase in food stamp benefits for people who refuse to comply with welfare programs' work requirements. The Office of Management and Budget was directed by the President to expedite the proposal as part of his welfare reform plan. USDA Under Secretary Ellen Haas says because food stamp benefits are tied to household income, when a decrease is tied to a penalty for failure to comply with other federal, state and local program requirements, it can still net the household an increase in benefits. The proposal in the President's welfare reform plan would end that. USDA will be accepting comments on the proposal soon. **Contact: Murray Rapp (703) 305-2039.**

CHALLENGES OF NEW CROP INSURANCE -- During a roundtable discussion on crop insurance requirements, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said he has heard from producers, insurance agents and government employees during the past few months. Glickman says he does not want to see any major changes in crop insurance for the next year or the next farm bill. He noted, "Some disagreement still surrounds the requirement that farmers buy a minimal level of crop insurance to remain eligible for other farm programs." He added, "I believe the \$50 catastrophic policy helps to assure producers, Americans and our customers worldwide that in years of major disasters, our ability to produce food will not be weakened. I am firmly committed to maintaining the linkage requirement." Also, Glickman said he does not support the idea of phasing out dual delivery in 1996, but the administration will continue to evaluate the system as it evolves. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

MORE FUNDING FOR MARKET PROMOTION -- An additional \$24.5 million is now available for export promotion activities under USDA's Market Promotion Program (MPP). Provided through the Emergency Supplemental and Rescissions Bill of 1995, nonprofit commodity groups and regional trade organizations will see fiscal year 1995 funding rise to \$110 million. USDA Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger says MPP "boosts U.S. agricultural exports and its long-term benefits for the U.S. economy are expected to continue well into the future." Administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, MPP helps U.S. producers, exporters and trade organizations finance cost-shared promotional activities for U.S. agricultural products. The MPP also encourages the development, maintenance and expansion of commercial export markets for agricultural commodities, including consumer promotions, market research and technical assistance. **Contact: Donald Washington (202) 720-3101.**

QUARANTINED HERDS DROP TO RECORD LOW -- A national cooperative effort to eradicate the livestock disease brucellosis has met with some success. The number of quarantined herds in the United States has dropped to a record low of 93. Yet, brucellosis remains a pervasive animal health threat in some parts of the country, according to Claude Barton, USDA brucellosis program director. Barton said the low number of quarantined herds is encouraging, but the current level of the disease in newly affected herds shows that brucellosis is still a threat. In the 1950's, nearly 124,000 cattle herds were under quarantine for brucellosis. Now, less than 100 herds are under quarantine and 34 states have been declared totally free of the disease. Brucellosis is a disease that causes abortions and lowered milk production in cows and is transmissible to humans who work with infected animals or consume raw products from those animals. **Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 734-6573.**

SHOULD IMPORT REQUIREMENTS CHANGE? -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is considering requiring that a phytosanitary certificate accompany all shipments of imported produce. USDA spokesperson Donald Husnik says this would increase USDA's ability to exclude dangerous foreign plant pests associated with fresh produce. A phytosanitary certificate verifies the article it accompanies has been inspected, is free from injurious plant diseases and insect pests and is otherwise eligible for exportation in accordance with the importing country's regulations. USDA officials predict compliance with this regulation would curtail the amount of produce brought in by travelers that is infested with dangerous agricultural pests. Send your comments by October 3 to USDA's APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, Maryland, 20737-1238. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 734-3256.**

USING TRAPS TO CONTROL PEPPER WEEVILS -- Just one pepper weevil larva among 100 peppers could mean serious yield losses later in the season. Pepper weevils multiply rapidly having life cycles of only three weeks. Economic losses are estimated at \$23 million per year. To control these weevils, spraying insecticide once a week may be necessary. Even though the larvae eating away inside peppers won't be affected, overlapping generations of flying weevils would be eradicated. Weekly insecticide spraying during a growing season lasting several months could impede the natural control of other pests. Using integrated pest management (IPM) USDA is entering the battle to trap these tiny weevils. Scientists at the Agricultural Research Service are using an insect trapping system that detects weevils two or three weeks before scouts find these pests. Using chemically mimicked pheromones, weevils are lured into sticky traps which can help producers make decisions about applying insecticides. **Contact: Lloyd McLaughlin (301) 344-2514.**

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR STANDARDS BOARD -- Five vacancies exist on the National Organic Standards Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations to fill those five year seats. Two of the vacancies must be filled by owners or operators of organic farming operations, two by representatives of consumer or public interest groups and one by an expert in the area of environmental protection and resource conservation. Nominations along with resumes should be sent by August 31 to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Room 4006-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. **Contact: Clarence Steinberg (202) 720-8998.**

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA # 1993 -- A visit with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor is the topic of this week's Agriculture USA. Brenda Curtis talks with Kantor about the current international trade issues with Canada and the European Union and about the beef agreement with Korea. (Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).

CONSUMER TIME # 1472 -- New fish market halfway around the world. Regulating the "puppy mills." Trees help cities. Sorry, no killer tomatoes here! (Weekly cassette -- consumer features).

AGRITAPE FEATURES # 1985 -- Crop insurance changes. Fruit and vegetable exports keep soaring. President Clinton's budget plan is reviewed. U.S. concerns over Canadian farm trade practices. U.S. concerns regarding new European grain trade practices. (Weekly cassette -- news features).

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Monday, August 14, feed outlook; oil crops outlook; rice outlook; wheat outlook; cattle and sheep outlook; world agricultural production; grain world markets and trade; oilseed world markets and trade. Tuesday, August 15, weekly weather and crops; farm labor report. Wednesday, August 16, milk production. Friday, August 18, cattle on feed. Tuesday, August 22, agricultural outlook; U.S. agricultural trade update; weekly weather and crops. Wednesday, August 23, livestock, dairy and poultry; fruit and tree nuts. Friday, August 25, livestock slaughter. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURE -- Patrick O'Leary reports on international forestry.

ACTUALITIES -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman talks about his travel to Asia. FSA Administrator Grant Buntrock talks about the impact of President Clinton's budget proposal on agriculture and why USDA's feeding programs are important to farmers and ranchers. Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger compares President Clinton's budget proposal with Congressional proposals as they relate to California.

ATTENTION BROADCASTERS: There are some satellite changes in next week's television newsfeed. Please make a note of them.

Thursday, August 17, 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. EDT. Galaxy 6, Transponder 1, Channel 1, Downlink Frequency 3720 MHZ, Audio 6.2 and 6.8. Monday, August 21, from 11:00 to 11:15 a.m. EDT. Galaxy 6, Transponder 1, Channel 1, downlink frequency 3720 MHZ, Audio 6.2 and 6.8.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services.

Call Larry A. Quinn, (202) 720-6072; write 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300.

OFF MIKE

HURRICANE ERIN...came ashore at Vero Beach, FL just 30 miles from the inland radio station where **Gary Cooper** (Southeast AgNet, Kenansville, FL) originates his network broadcasts. Gary packed up his portable radio studio and evacuated, but he says the storm passed over them leaving little damage. The Indian River District, a major fruit growing area, escaped with no significant fruit drop. Gary says more significant damage was experienced in the Florida Panhandle near Pensacola.

WATCHING THE COTTON GROW...is what farmers in the Rolling Plains of Texas are doing this week especially after 3 to 9 inches of rain fell, breaking a month and a half dry spell. World cotton demand has pushed cotton acreage up to more than 600,000 acres in the Rolling Plains with the High Plains area, north of Lubbock, boasting its third year of more than 3 million acres planted. **Carl Shearer** (KVRP, Haskell, TX) says the next 45-60 days will have a critical effect on cotton yields. The rain was a welcome boost. Carl hosts a 40-minute morning farm show and a 30-minute noon program.

NEW FARM DIRECTOR...at WMRN in Marion, OH is **Steve Scott**, formerly assistant farm director at WRFD in Columbus, OH. Steve's been on-the-job for six weeks and has a 45-minute show that is farm and home-oriented. He's a regular user of our daily radio newslines and requested our weekly radio cassette service. Congratulations to Steve on his new assignment.

"THE WAY IT WAS"...and **"Never a Dull Moment"** are two of **Herb Plambeck's** latest books. One details his experiences in a 55-year career as agricultural author, editor, broadcaster, war correspondent, government official and international travel director. The other is a compilation of writings about "Golden Agers" who made contributions to agriculture. Herb resides in Des Moines, IA where he is recovering from recent eye surgery. As a long-time advocate, Herb continues to spread the good news about agriculture.

Larry A. Quinn
LARRY A. QUINN, Director

Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



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